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DRACÆNA LINDENI.

THE dracænas are highly prized plants for their handsome form and foliage. Several species are well known occupants of our green-houses and conservatories, and are employed as decorative apartment plants in connection with ferns, palms and other plants of conspicuous forms and striking foliage. One of the best of these is *D. Lindenii*, shown in the accompanying engraving. This plant is one of the very few species that are native of the western hemisphere. For the most part they are found in Africa, India, East Indies, Java, Madagascar and the islands of Polynesia. The broad, handsomely curved leaves of *D. Lindenii* make it particularly noticeable in this class of plants, and, besides, the leaves are striped with a band of yellow in the center when they have been well grown and are in good condition. A suitable soil is a fibrous loam with sufficient sand to keep it porous and a small quantity of old manure. The dracænas and palms are among the most durable of conservatory and apartment plants on account of their slow growth. The yearly increase in height is very small and in this respect it is also like the yucca, to which it bears a relationship.

In regard to the slow growth of the dracæna, Kerner, in his *Natural History of Plants*, says: "The yearly increase in length of stem is comparatively small, the leaves which project all round from this portion of the stem are consequently crowded together and form a rosette which cannot be distinguished as regards the arrangement of the individual parts from the radical rosettes of agaves and species of the house-leeks, and like these must be regarded as a short axis. In the following year the stem continues this curious, abbreviated growth, the foliage-leaves of the previous year gradually die off, and only the hardened remnants of their leaf-bases are left behind, thus the rosette or head of fresh green leaves is now seen borne by a naked columnar stem. This continues for many years, and the gigantic crown of leaves rises higher above the ground." Slow as is the growth of the plants of this class, some great specimens of them exist, the largest one some time ago being the great Dragon Tree, *Dracæna Draco*, of Orotava, Canary Islands, which, however, is now almost a ruin, having been nearly destroyed

some years since by a great storm. This tree was eighty feet in height from the ground to its lowest branch, and ten men standing at its base with outstretched hands could scarcely encircle it. Its immense age can only be imagined. It is said that it was as large when the islands were

discovered, in 1402, as when last seen in its perfect condition, and the probability of this statement has been accepted, based on observations of it since it has been known, and this tree is thought to be the oldest plant on the earth. The two species of dracæna which have been most propagated and disseminated are *D. indivisa* and *D. terminalis*, the first having narrow green leaves, gracefully curved, and has for years been commonly employed as a center piece for vases and urns placed in the gardens in summer. *D. terminalis* has been used in the same manner to some extent, though it does not stand the sun so well, but is fine with partial shade, and is also a handsome plant for the conservatory. The leaves have a rich crimson color with markings of white and pink. *D. Braziliensis* is an excellent species for vase use, and having rich green foliage. *D. Bruantii*, a species with dark green foli-



DRACÆNA LINDENI.

age is an excellent house plant, resisting the effects of the dry air of living rooms equal to the *Aspidistra* and Rubber Tree. For the decoration of conservatories, and to be used for a short time as apartment plants, there are several excellent species and varieties with colored and variegated foliage.

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SOME GOOD ROSES FOR POTTING.

WE think of roses in the summer time and we long for them in the winter, but some of us have not been very successful in getting roses to grow and do well in the house. I suppose one chief cause of failure may have been in the selection of varieties. It may be, too, in not knowing how to care for the plants. A well treated rose is responsive and there is no flower that can compare with the rose in its many varied and beautiful colors and forms.

Who does not remember the single red roses of the mother's or grand-

mother's garden? Were these not lovely and delightful to childish eyes? Who does not think with pleasure of the old-fashioned cabbage rose with its pink color and its many petals, and again the rose that we knew as the thousand-leaved rose, and the dear old climbing roses, Baltimore Belle, Seven Sisters, Queen Isabella and Queen of the Prairies? But it was not about outdoor roses that I began to write, instead it was roses for potting, and hoping to encourage some few to try those for the window garden.

In choosing roses for potting it is not necessary to choose the novelties. There can be no doubt that the new introductions are lovely and possibly improvements on some of the older varieties, but when we have found some old kinds, good and reliable, they are like old friends "not to be exchanged for new," although we may give the new a place side by side with the old-time favorites.

I have a great fancy for creamy roses, roses that range from a mere tint to those that revel in the hue of the sunshine, a bright, golden yellow. Coquette de Lyon is a fine yellow rose, it is of a bright, canary yellow and the buds of the long pointed shape that delight the heart of the rose lover, for we all love the buds better, possibly, than the full blown roses. The flowers are borne on long stems and are very fragrant. This is not essentially a pot rose, but may be bedded out in the summer and brought under cover for winter; if this is done it is not best to keep it bloom-

plenty of fertilizers applied liquid, even after enriching the soil, will help towards perfection. Besides these requirements the rose likes a warm situation and a moist soil not, however, a soggy one. Judgment must be used in regard to amount of water and fertilizer used; a thrifty growing plant will take more water and more fertilizing than one that is half dead and half alive. Then too, again give the roses a season of rest, when they have done well, even if they are called perpetual bloomers, don't try to keep them at it all the time by too much stimulation. If you have a choice of blooming time, then choose it and let the plants rest for two months, or may be more, at a time, when you least require the blossoms. If you let them rest awhile in midwinter, say from the first of December till the first of February, you may well expect to have roses all the time after that, if you water and fertilize well. Re-pot in February before new growth begins, and with rich soil. Do not be afraid to pick the roses, as this encourages new growth, and it is on the new growth that the flowers are produced. It is well to cut the shoots back after re-potting, and then give them their needs in regard to warmth, water and fertilizing, and you may depend upon having a harvest of blossoms.

Ipswich, S. D.

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.

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A LILY POND.

ANY one who has a nice lawn should, by all means, have a lily pond. It is easily made and a thing of beauty. There are many ways of making these ponds, either of stone, brick or masonry, but as these are all expensive, we will give our attention to another sort that will cost but a few dollars and at the same time last for years. Have a wooden tub made similar to a wooden cistern or water tank, with straight sides and about four feet deep. It can be made round or square, and as large as you wish, but should not be smaller than six feet across. This size will hold six or eight bulbs. One foot from the bottom have a hole two inches in diameter, and a plug to fit it, which must be put in from the inside, and project far enough to make its removal easy. Mark the top of the tank exactly above this plug, so that you may know where to find it when the time comes to let out the water. This tank should then be sunk in the ground to within two inches of the top, and then make a gravel border around it of about eighteen inches. When preparing the hole in which to put the tank, determine upon which side the place where the plug is to come and dig a place about eighteen inches across, and as deep, and fill it with small stones. This is done in order that the water will have a place to drain into when the plug is removed.

Give your tank a coat of waterproof paint on the inside, and of tar on the outside, before sinking it in the ground. This preserves the wood from decay, and the tank will last much longer. When your tank is all ready, fill it up to the plug with pond mud, or any rich earth which has at least a quarter of cow manure, and put in your lily bulbs. Run in the water gently so as not to disturb the soil, and fill but a few inches above the bulbs. When they show signs of growing, add more water, until at length it is almost or quite full.

When the water freezes to the depth of a half inch, reach down and remove the plug, and after the water has run out, replace the plug, and fill the tank full to the top with dry leaves or loose hay and lay boards over the top. Any tender lilies like callas, should be removed and either placed in the cellar in a pail of mud, or dried off. When the hard frosts are over in the spring, remove the litter, add a little well rotted cow manure, and any new bulbs you wish, and gradually refill with water.

The most satisfactory lilies for a tank like the one described are the white lilies that grow in such profusion in the lakes of Minnesota and Wisconsin, as they never winter-kill. There is also a pink variety much like it, and also yellow ones, but to the writer's mind nothing can compare with the common white ones. Next come the large callas, which must be taken up in the fall. Water hyacinths are lovely in one of these tanks. Where one can afford a tank of large size, a mound of stones can be built up in the center with a large calla at the top, and any varieties of moisture loving plants set in soil between the rocks.

An admirable pond seen some years since was made in the following manner: A hole, some twelve feet in diameter and five feet in depth was first dug, and this was plastered with mortar to the depth of four inches, at the sides and bottom. A piece of lead pipe was put in to make the desired drain, and due respect was paid to constructing a place outside of where it went through, so that the water would drain off through a layer of rocks and sand. When the mortar was dry it was treated to a coat of cistern cement. In the center was constructed a miniature island, of stones and earth, and upon it was a mass of foliage and flowers, while pink, white and yellow water lilies filled the space around it, and some tadpoles grew to be sedate frogs under the shade of the broad leaves. One year half a dozen dwarf callas and a lot of old-fashioned "Wandering Jew" made the island a fairy like place, and several years later amaryllis plants of many colors revelled in the sun and moisture of the island. No one who has not seen one of the miniature ponds can imagine their beauty.

Mrs. H. L. MILLER.



IRIS KÄMPFERI
*MADAME LAGUELLE DE KARRIS

ing through the winter, but set it out in the summer and it will give you roses from June to October. This is a profuse bloomer, and if you are making a list of roses and do not have this already, put it down for one to be secured.

A lovely creamy rose is Marie Guillot. This is an ideal pot rose. The bushes do not grow very large but are strong and stocky, and have many beautiful buds and the flowers are more perfect than many roses, being double to the very heart and delightfully fragrant. Make a note of this. If you want a real white rose, try Marie Lambert.

Now we want a red, red rose, and you can find nothing better than Queen's Scarlet. This is classed among the hardy roses but it does well in the house. It is of the richest, reddest scarlet, with a velvety texture to the petals that is beautiful beyond compare.

You want a pink rose; no collection is perfect without pink ones. That is true, and we will choose Bridesmaid.

Roses require a rich soil, but do not think by this that fresh manure will do for them; this is a great mistake, and one I think often made by would-be flower growers. They think manure is manure, whether it is rotted or not, and it is, but as a fertilizer for tender plants, and nearly all in fact, it needs rotting, when this stage has arrived it will look dark and rich and be crumbly like good woods' earth. Besides wanting a rich soil, pot roses do not want large pots to bloom well, a smaller pot and

*The flowers of *I. Kämpferi* are usually much broader petaled. This variety is a smaller, handsomere form that we specially admire.

THE IRIS AND ITS CULTURE.

WHEN the iris shall be taken up for scientific evolution as the sweet pea, dahlia, and other fine old flowers have been, what royal colors and stately forms we shall see! Longfellow's exquisite "Flower-de-Luce" would give one the idea that the iris is inseparable from running water, yet the bulbous-rooted species are not at all fond of it, preferring to grow in high and dry locations. These irises are not so well known, I find, as most other sorts, though there are some beautiful forms among them that blossom very early.

The earliest blooming of all is little *Iris reticulata*. Sometimes it blooms with the crocuses, its fragrant gold and violet flowers harmonizing well with theirs. The flower-spike is sent up before the leaves are an inch high, and grows about a foot tall before the blossom expands. It takes this iris a season or two to become well established, and so it may not flower the first or second year. The blooming-time varies somewhat; in colder climates than ours I have noticed that this iris usually flowers in April.

Next come Spanish and English irises, which are quite cheap and make a fine show in early summer. The Spanish species blooms first; the English about two weeks later. We give them about the same treatment as daffodils, planting in a rich, sunny, well drained soil and in rows about eighteen inches apart, so that annuals or summer bedding plants can be set between the rows for summer bloom, for the leaves of these bulbous irises die down soon after the blossoms have faded. A good place to plant them is in the raised bulb beds that adorn most yards. In no case must they be planted where water will stand in winter. In our climate they are hardy without protection, but farther north I usually see them protected with a covering of half-rotted leaves before cold weather. The Spanish iris begins to grow soon after it is planted in fall, but the leaves do not grow very tall before freezing weather. This does not seem to affect them more than in stopping their growth, however, for they stand in low, fresh green rows all winter. The bulbs of all iris are best left undisturbed for a number of years after planting, as their bloom is finer, freer, and more effective when they are well established in large masses. When the roots grow so thick that deterioration seems probable, we lift and divide the clumps in August or September, resetting them in fresh, rich soil.

The two best races of the iris are Germanica and Kämpferi. Despite the great gorgeous flowers, odd colors, and strange markings of the latter, I love the former best. Some of the varieties of German iris are delightfully fragrant, and the flowers have a classical, high-bred air. *Iris pallida*, with beautiful pale blue flowers, is a distinct species, I sup-

pose, but I always think of it in connection with German iris; so, also, the great white Florentine iris that always reminds me of a belated Easter angel with partially folded wings.

In planting German iris, and other sorts with thick, creeping rhizomes, we are careful to keep these just level with the surface, as if planted deeper they would decay. For this reason the heavy mulches of fertilizer given the Kämpfer irises are fatal to these.

Iris Sibirica is a little beauty that groups well with the Kämpfer irises, liking the same sort of culture and usually blooming near the same time. For the last year or two, however, my Siberian irises have bloomed first, the last bloom fading before Kämpferi opened a bud. Oh, for an ever-

blooming race of iris! *Sibirica*'s leaves are long, narrow, deep green, and ribbed like the Kämpferi, but its flowers are smaller and shaped more like those of the German iris. The deep violet and purple flowers are the handsomest, to my thinking. This iris blooms very thickly and freely, lighting its dark leaf-masses with royal spreads of vivid color.

The flowers of the Kämpfer iris are, perhaps, broader and richer when grown where it can be flooded with water during the growing season, but very fine flowers are also cut from it in many dry upland gardens where it is given the same culture as gladiolus. This iris is very easily grown from seeds, which are sown in spring, like other seeds in outdoor beds. The seedlings do not usually bloom until the second year. The Kämpfer iris delights in a very rich soil, and heavy mulches of fertilizer spread over its roots in the fall will double the size of its blossoms. It really needs a rich soil two feet deep, as its large roots soon exhaust the soil. When our clumps have become well-established we give them a good dressing of fertilizer in spring also.

I. Monnieri, the latest blooming of our iris, is quite distinct from other sorts. It has leaves like the gladiolus, and very sweet-scented, golden-yellow flowers, margined



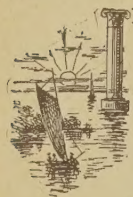
GERMAN IRIS
IRIS FLAVESCENS

with white, on stems four feet high. A handsome variety.

Neither is our common water-flag, *Iris pseudacorus*, a plant to be forgotten when making up a collection. It has tall-stemmed clusters of pretty yellow flowers, followed by clusters of scarlet berries. Besides these there are some lovely dwarf irises that must be planted thickly in order to show their beauty at any distance. First of all among these I would place our lovely, fragrant little wilding, *Iris verna*, that fairly carpets our hillsides with its purple and gold in early spring. *I. pumila* is also very free flowering and makes fine masses or broad border-line. It grows four to six inches high and has deep violet flowers. *I. chamæiris* has flowers of deep blue, borne in May. *I. cristata* has odd, fluffy, fringed blooms of light blue, striped with yellow. All these dwarfs have small creeping rhizomes and are grown like *Iris Germanica*.

L. GREENLEE.

SOME NATIVE GENTIANAS.



IN a general survey of our native flora it soon becomes apparent that white is the predominant color among the flowers; then come the various shades of yellow and orange; next the reds, including rose and pink; finally we have the violets, shading sparingly into blue. Of this last some of our gentians are very typical for purity and intensity of color. Flowers of various or mixed colors are unusual in our wild flora, this feature being more the result of high culture and hybridization than of native growth. As we approach the tropics, however, the conditions are changed, and flowers of weird shape and the most startling color contrasts prevail everywhere.

In the olden time a large percentage of the medicines used were concocted from the native plants and shrubs, and to this day an Indian doctor has considerable prestige because he is supposed to use "pure drugs," that is, according to the old tradition, medicines made from herbs. The old-time prescriptions and nostrums are passing away with the users, and only such are retained as have proved of permanent service and value; among them is the gentian, which is used as a tonic, and the public is familiar with the name gentian more from the fact of its application medicinally than from any acquaintance with the plants themselves, although there are a considerable number of species indigenous to this country. While the species (*Gentiana lutea* or yellow gentian), used for its medicinal qualities is a native of Europe, yet our own species all contain the same bitter, tonic properties which are characteristic of the genus.

As with most of our native flora, it is singularly rare that one meets with plants of this interesting genus under cultivation. It seems to be a prevailing opinion with most people that plants growing in the woods will not grow in the open border, and that those found in moist or marshy land will not flourish in well drained, clean kept garden soil. Now while this is true in regard to some species, such as the pitcher plant, the arrowheads, the droseras, and our native calla, for these are essentially water plants, yet there are many natives of our woods and



Two-thirds natural size.

GENTIANA QUINQUEFLORA



Two-thirds natural size.

GENTIANA CRINITA

marshes that take kindly to garden culture. Most of our native orchids from the woods do exceptionally well in the garden; the bloodroot is thoroughly cosmopolitan, growing equally well in the shaded woodland and in the open meadow, in black forest loam or in the light sandy soil by the dusty roadside, so that finding this charming spring plant growing freely in the woods does not in any way circumscribe its habitat. The hepaticas, anemones, trilliums, erythroniums, violets, and many other of our woodland beauties bear transplanting well and generally improve under garden culture. By far the handsomest clump of *Cypripedium* spectabile the writer ever saw was growing on the open, boggy shore of a lake, in the full blaze of the sun the entire day, with its roots penetrating well through the sagging turf to the water beneath; there were over fifty blooms on this clump. Yet a specimen of this elegant genus grows vigorously in the front border of my neighbor's yard, facing the north; a plant originally transferred from the woods in full bloom, and over forty miles from here. So, with the gentians, it is believed that most of them can be grown successfully in the garden. *Gentiana Andrewsii* and *G. quinqueflora* have grown finely under personal care; the fringed gentian, *G. crinita*, the writer has found, so far, only in the open bogs, and has not tried it yet in the garden, but an acquaintance has done so and failed with it; still, any failure by a new hand is not conclusive. Perhaps some who read these lines may have an experience to give on this special point. A few of the best distributed species are as follows:

GENTIANA QUINQUEFLORA—A neat little plant, six to nine inches high, branching; flowers scarcely an inch long, five lobed, bristle pointed, and of a light lavender blue color, growing in panicles at the tips of the branches and main stem; stamens five; stigmas two, persistent; leaves ovate-lanceolate and slightly heart-shaped at base. We find this modest little gentian blooming in September, on the wooded hillsides under thorn bushes, thus enjoying good drainage and partial shade during the day. A fine species for the garden.

G. CRINITA—Fringed gentian. The gem of the genus; the flowers are solitary, on long peduncles terminating the stem and simple branches, calyx four lobed; corolla two inches long, four lobed, with margins delicately fringed; the lower part of the corolla is greenish white, the upper half a sky blue of great purity; leaves broad and lanceolate, with rounded or heart-shaped base. In low moist ground, blooming in September.

G. DETONSA—A northwestern species nearly allied to *G. crinita*; it has

narrow or linear leaves, and the fringe of the corolla is much less developed than in that species; the color is light blue.

G. ANDREWSII—Closed gentian. A robust woodland plant, two to three feet high; calyx lobes ovate and quite short; corolla one and a half inches long, club shaped, and apparently closed; color an intense ultramarine blue, a remarkably rare shade in flowers, the frilled apex a clear light pink; anthers adherent. The flowers are upright in the axils of the sessile, lance-oblong leaves, and at the terminus of the stem. Blooms in September. It was long a question how this species was fertilized; Dr. Gray said, "This gentian opens in the sunlight at mid-day, and the bees go in and out of the blooms in quest of honey;" the late Hamilton Gibson has also referred to this as a matter of personal observation by him; and now it has become an ordinary event for amateur botanists to transplant this denizen of the woods where they can amuse themselves and friends by watching the bees wriggle into these closed flowers and out again, presumably satiated with nectar, and certainly dusted with pollen.

JOHN WALTON.

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THE NOVELTIES AND SPECIALTIES.

AMONG the novelties and specialties of this season's catalogue are several that I tried for the first time last year. Foremost in the list because of greatest merit, I would place the cannas, Austria and Italia. I procured two plants of each at a time when each pair cost \$1.75, but never felt that the money was wasted after the plants begun to blossom. Not a word too much has been said in their favor, as the flowers are of immense size, fine form and color and have proved far more lasting than I had reason to expect from the delicate texture of the flowers. There is a satin-like finish to the petals that causes them to glimmer in the sunlight as if covered with a gloss. The plants grow larger than most of the new cannas, and increase in root very rapidly; one of my plants last year raised eighteen stalks from one planted in the spring. They do best when planted where they do not receive the direct sun all day long, and under those circumstances retain the blossoms in a perfect state much longer.

Centaurea Marguerite was a great favorite in our garden last summer, though I had but two plants which were sent to me for trial. The flowers are white, two to three inches in diameter, very sweet scented and look more like tissue paper flowers than anything else; they are very double and the edges of the petals are finely cut, like some of the finest carnations. The plants grew fifteen to eighteen inches, the blossoms being held well above the foliage, the latter being finely cut and quite handsome, growing in a dense mat near the ground. The flowers are fine for cutting, lasting well even out of water, as the stems are wiry and strong.

The Flowering Pea Bush is a grand new plant from Japan, and one that at once jumped into favor among gardeners everywhere; our public parks now show some very fine specimens and they attract a great deal of attention. The bush grows four or five feet tall, the branches being of drooping habit, which is especially beautiful at the blooming season, when each one is loaded with the delicate pea-shaped flowers. They

bloom during August and September, the flowers a pale purple color produced in long clusters. The plant is entirely hardy, but the top dies down each season.

The Rudbeckia Golden Glow is another hardy plant that was a favorite from its first introduction; it is entirely hardy, having originated in northern Illinois where the thermometer often reaches 25°



GENTIANA ANDREWSII AND BEE

to 30° below zero. The plants grow to great size, six to ten feet high, and in a short time forming large clumps which increase in beauty every year. The blooming season is from August until frost, and the flowers are very numerous. They are of a brilliant golden yellow



Two-thirds natural size.

GENTIANA ANDREWSII

color, double and borne on long stiff stems; for decorations no flowers can be finer, and they are in great demand for that purpose.

Hibiscus Crimson Eye has been in our garden for two years and makes a grand display—few plants will furnish flowers as large as a saucer, but this one produces many of that size. With us the branches die down to the ground every winter, coming up with increased vigor in the spring. Immense blossoms, four to six inches are produced in abundance; they are pure white with a rich crimson center, which latter affords a fine contrast to the pure white petals. The plant is perfectly hardy, will succeed anywhere and blooms the first season.

Anemone Whirlwind is a great favorite wherever known, and is especially adapted for cemetery planting. I have one in my garden and it is a thing of beauty in the blooming season. The plant grows two to three feet high, with large, handsome foliage; the flowers are white, double, two to three inches in diameter, and have good lasting qualities when cut.

Vick's Caprice rose is an old favorite of mine, having been in my garden since the year following its introduction; it has proved a grand rose, hardy, free blooming, and attracting much attention on account of the peculiar stripes in its petals. It is admirable for cutting, as the flower stem bears but one rose, thus preventing the sacrifice of several buds when a long stem is needed. The bush can be depended on to bear roses all summer, a few at a time, and it is seldom that I cannot find roses or buds on the bush from June to November. The fragrance is very pronounced, and is unlike that of most hardy roses, being similar to that of the Bon Silene rose.

Abutilon Souvenir de Bonn is one of my stand-bys as a winter house-plant. It is a beautiful plant when not in blossom, as the silver edges contrast beautifully with the green of the leaves. The flowers are large and of a peculiar red color.

Three years of success with Vick's Branching Asters have convinced me that no finer variety exists. My special liking for them comes from the fact that their blooming season is so much longer than that of any other sort I have ever raised, and their branching habit gives them a chance to bear so many more flowers; then, too, the long wiry stems on

which the flowers are borne make them extremely fine for cutting. We often raise them in pots or tubs so they can be used in the house for decorating, when needed.

I saw a plant of Madame Bruant geranium at a florist's, lately, and was more than delighted with its great beauty. The plant could not be purchased, as it was reserved to make cuttings from, and the florist said he never before had a geranium that he had such hard work to keep,—everyone wanted it. The colors are arranged in a peculiar way; the ground color is white, and all except the outer edge of the petals is veined with a deep carmine color,—the petals forms a distinct contrast, being a bright solferino color. The plant is very free flowering, producing immense clusters of fine form.

MARIAN MEADE.

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SEED PODS.

To all who do not succeed readily with carnations let me recommend Portia, the scarlet-flowered dwarf. In winter it blooms nicely in a cold pit, and cuttings started in March bloom freely through the summer.

A curious rose is Archduke Charles. At first glance it appears like a much-improved pink Daily. But often the large and very double flowers show odd variations of colors. Frequently a pale pink flower will have a deep crimson outer ring of petals. In the same cluster may be one curiously streaked and marked with rose and crimson on the same pink ground. Again the whole flower may vary to deep crimson rose. The bush is constantly in bloom, and these odd freaks are very diverting.

Every year's experience increases my enthusiasm for the Polyantha roses. I never knew one to be winter-killed through seasons when Teas, Hybrid Teas, Noisettes and Bourbons perished by the dozen. Drought they disregard in the same calm fashion. True, their flowers, save in the case of Clothilde Soupert, are not large or finely finished, but they fairly gush from the stems in such lavish profusion all summer long! These thick, red, young flower-stems actually forget to have any leaves upon them sometimes.

But I cannot understand the very general and long-standing admiration for moss roses. Nine large bushes in my plat—Comtesse de Murinais, Perpetual white, and Crimson moss—have for three years disappointed me with dingy flowers of no particular beauty. The buds are mossy and picturesque, to be sure, but under our hot suns the bud stage is exceedingly brief, and the "moss" is not visible on wide-open flowers. Then, too, the plants bloom only once a year, and we of the South can be content only with perpetual-blooming sorts.

One of my Kämpferi irises would make a good Fourth of July flag. The great blossom has a dark blue background, oddly spotted and veined with red and white.

The scarlet mint, *Monarda didyma*, is one of our showiest midsummer flowers. In some of our mountain counties it is a wilding, spreading gleaming patches of its bright flowers amid fields of ripening grain, in the same picturesque way that poppies are said to in the old world. In cultivation we find that the plant thrives in dry, hard soil that discourages most sorts.

The tenantry of South Carolina plantations have an original way of growing Irish potatoes that yield amazingly considering the amount of labor expended. The potatoes are dropped thickly in long, fresh furrows of otherwise unbroken ground, and covered about seven or eight inches deep with dry "pine straw." This is the only "culture" given them, as the pine needles keep down all weeds. Sometimes square pens are made of rails, and layers of straw and potatoes several feet deep are placed in it. These are called "lazy beds."

In May our woodland slopes are a cool, feathery tangle of blackberry and white fringe tree blossoms. Wherever the fringe-tree has shot up into a smooth shaft, and hangs its fragrant white canopy over an encircling colony of drooping blackberry sprays, one's cap comes off to mother nature.

In May, also, we dug our "commercial" hyacinths, tulips and narcissi. The first had been split upwards from base to center of bulbs for propagating purposes last summer, then "cured" in dry sand. When planted again in September tiny young bulbs had formed in the gashes, and these, at the last digging had, in some cases, formed as many as fifteen young bulbs the size of a filbert to a single old one. The average was not more than eight or ten to one bulb, but the bulbs were larger where fewer. Another season's growth ought to make blooming bulbs of them all. The "mole-tax" paid on tulips absorbs most of the profits. They are more easily cultivated than hyacinths, and increase well without cutting, but moles and ground mice are inordinately fond of them. The best way we have yet found to get rid of these pests is to poison them with strychnine spread on bits of meat and placed in their runs. Narcissi require less care than any bulbs we cultivate and increase very rapidly. Tulips and hyacinths must be dug and cured every season, but we plant the tiny "stock" narcissus bulbs to stand three years before digging. The large ones are then sorted out and sold, the small ones replanted for stock. Meantime hoed crops can be planted between the rows.

L. GREENLEE.

* *

WINTER BLOOMING BULBS.

LAST FALL I purchased a large quantity of bulbs, mostly for winter blooming, only a few hundred being for outdoor planting. There were a few over two thousand in all, being five hundred and fifty hyacinths, six hundred crocus, two hundred tulips, fifty Chinese sacred lily, twenty-five Golden sacred lily, one hundred Paper White narcissus, two hundred daffodils, fifty Easter lily, fifty ranunculus, fifty anemone, twenty-five Ornithogalum Arabicum, eighteen Mexican sacred lily, twenty white Roman hyacinth, twelve auratum lily and the balance in freesias and *Glaucolus Colvilli*. I was almost frightened when I saw what an array of them I had to dispose of, for of course I could use but a small part of them myself; but in three weeks from the time the bulbs came they were all disposed of and there were calls for many more than I could furnish.

With the exception of the auratum lilies, tulips and two hundred of the crocus, all were sold for



MONARDA DIDYMA.

winter blooming in the house, to thirty-seven different persons who came to my house for the bulbs. I did not find it necessary to leave my home to seek a purchaser for any of them; good news flies and one neighbor told another and so on until the bulbs were so well advertised that they sold themselves. Having them in such quantities I obtained them at cheap rates, which allowed me to sell at an advance, and yet be below the regular prices at retail.

I have lately been going around to see the result of the planting and have seen about half of my customers; among them I heard of only three hyacinth bulbs that had not proved perfectly satisfactory, and only one or two of other kinds. All seem well pleased and many of them are already talking of larger orders next fall, and many who did not know of them in time to purchase are asking for a chance next time. There seems to be a fine chance for any woman to make a little money for herself in her own neighborhood in this way, and yet not be obliged to leave her own home to make sales; the difference between wholesale and retail rates giving a fair profit. One of my customers made a mistake and planted Von Sion daffodils in a bowl of water with pebbles to hold them in place, instead of Paper White narcissus, which I advised her to plant in water. They bloomed beautifully and the blossoms were not only larger than mine, which were placed in earth, but kept in good condition longer. Crocus did unusually well in the house last winter, both in earth and water. My favorite way to raise them is to use a shallow dish half full of moss, planting the bulbs thickly in it and then covering with water. Golden Sacred Lily has done finely, both in water and earth.

Ornithogalum Arabicum has heretofore been rather an uncertain plant with us—not being sure to bloom; last year I made up my mind that a plant so rank growing could not need any extra fertilizer, as it would then have a tendency to grow too much foliage at the expense of the flowers. This year I selected the poorest soil I could find on the place and every bulb I had budded.

Of the twenty-six hyacinths reserved for myself, twenty-five bloomed finely, many of them having two spikes and a few of them, three. These were not named bulbs, but were the unnamed sorts with the colors kept separate; I have bought a florist's mixture at a much higher price that did not produce as fine flowers as did these bulbs.

The Mexican sacred lily (Jacobean) has not yet bloomed but some of the bulbs are now (May 10) budded. I raise them in water, three bulbs planted in a glass dish like Chinese sacred lily. The latter are gone long ago, being one of the earliest sorts to bloom and usually ready for the holiday season.

Henry Irving, Princess and Stella daffodils did beautifully and attracted a great deal of attention; they bloomed early and were almost gone when Von Sion commenced.

These winter blooming bulbs can be depended on to furnish flowers from November to April if enough of them are planted, while many other plants are as uncertain about blooming; cold or changeable weather does not affect them and I never knew a spike of hyacinth buds to blight in the fourteen seasons I have raised them. In that time I have only had three hyacinth bulbs fail to bloom, though I have had from six to twenty-five each winter. Surely no one can truthfully say that of any other plant.

MRS. H. M. WOODWARD.

AUGUST NOTES.

This month divide the clumps of hardy pinks that have bloomed.

Do not cut back the carnations, intended for winter blooming, later than this month.

Keep the asters free from weeds and fertilize freely for big blooms and plenty of them.

Plant pansy seed this month to make sure of strong young plants for early spring blooming.

Trim back the shrubs that are growing unshapely or sending out stray and straggling branches.

Shrubs, roses and climbing vines can be increased by layering this month. Another year they can be cut adrift from the parent plants and if the work has been well done, nearly all will be found to be good, thrifty, well rooted plants.

The gloxinias will be out of bloom now. Set in a cool place and water sparingly until their foliage is ripened and the bulb dried, when they may be set away in a dry, frost-proof place until again wanted for another season's blooming.

Lack of success with freesias is often caused by late planting. To those who have hitherto failed with these beauties, try planting a dozen or so this month (in one large pot rather than singly) and I think you will be pleased with the result.

The weeds will grow in August and the hotter the days the faster they grow; so if you want your garden to look well through the fall, and wish to save yourself lots of work next summer, you will not let the hammock, a book and a cool veranda win you from your allegiance to the garden hoe.

If you are going to make some friend happy by sending her a bouquet cut the flowers the night before they are to be sent (whether they go by mail or messenger) and keep them in water in a cool place. The stems will be full of water and they will endure their journey much better than if sent as soon as cut.

If your verbenas come into bloom early, and the blooms have not been kept as closely cut as they ought to have been, try cutting them back and fertilizing with a little liquid manure or by working some commercial fertilizer about the roots. In my own locality verbenas have not been long enough in bloom in August to be very much exhausted.

Now is a good time to start slips of coleus. Take a water tight dish and fill nearly full of clean sand; thoroughly saturate, set your slips in it; put in a fairly sunny place, and be sure to keep wet all the time. If the slips are not set too near each other they will do well enough in the sand for several weeks. When transplanting to pots allow all the sand that will, to adhere to the roots, and if not already attended to, pinch out the tops to make the plants branch freely.

The dahlias just coming into flower will repay you an hundred fold for every good drenching you may now give them. The water saved from the weekly wash and applied at evening, or even water from the well (the latter should be drawn several hours before using, and left in the sun, if possible) will prove very acceptable. A little soot, bone



PHRYNIUM VARIEGATUM

meal or phosphate, or some kind of plant food, dug into the soil about the roots will increase the size of the blossoms. If extra large blooms are desired, allow but one stalk to each tuber set and pinch out part of the buds that form, but this part of the work should have been attended to earlier in the season.

D. L.

PHRYNIUM VARIEGATUM.

THIS is a tropical plant nearly related to the canna, and very much like it in its mode of growth. Its peculiar beauty consists in its large leaves which are handsomely variegated with white and green. It grows to a height of eighteen or twenty-four inches and makes a fine plant in the greenhouse or conservatory, and serves admirably for a temporary decorative room plant. It can also be used in a bed of foliage plants in the open ground. It is now being sent out by some dealers in this country, at a low price.

A SOIL OF COAL ASHES.

When we came into possession of our present home, the side yard sloped precipitously toward the east and was flooded with water during every rainfall. Not wishing to have the expense of grading we began filling the lower side with coal ashes and a few winters sufficed to remedy these evils, but tradition said, "You cannot raise flowers in ashes," therefore we fought the weeds which we found would grow there, and tried to be patient. This spring we determined to try at least a few of the hardiest flowers and results have been such that I think they will be of interest to others. In March the ashes were thoroughly raked and rolled. On one side we dug a trench for sweet peas, about sixteen feet in length, in this we planted Vick's Bouquet collection. The weather being very cold they did not germinate until late in April, and as soon as they were well started we drew the ashes down about them, filling the trench. Once a week they were watered with liquid fertilizer and July 1st they reached nearly to the top of their poultry netting support (six feet) and were covered with buds and blossoms.

A row of nasturtiums was equally fortunate and bore more flowers throughout the summer than those planted in proper garden soil.

Dahlias were another success, bulbs planted in ashes and well watered daily outstripping those in rich loam and bearing more and handsomer flowers than we had ever before raised.

We have tried several other varieties but cannot yet speak positively as to results, although the plants are growing well. Clover sown in May caught well and walking over its green, luxuriant surface you would not dream that beneath lay several feet of coal ashes.

L. M.

Towanda, Pa.

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ELIAS A. LONG, Associate.
Formerly conductor of *Popular Gardening*

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Beetles on Asters.

The blister beetle, which infests asters especially, should be met with vigorous measures. The surest treatment is to take a pan containing a little water, with a covering of kerosene oil. Go among the plants early in the morning and holding the pan under the plants shake them, and the beetles will fall off and be caught in the pan, and be killed by the oil.

* *

A New Rose.

A new variety of rose, raised by A. Dickson & Son, of Ireland, is to be offered to the public in this country, by two American firms, in the fall or coming spring. The name is Liberty, and the color similar to that of Meteor, but better, which variety it is expected to supersede, especially for winter forcing, although this is yet to be proved. The parentage of this new variety is not yet announced.

* *

Fruit Notes.

The promise of a fine fruit crop in this state that was given earlier in the season, cannot now be confirmed. Apple trees bloomed and set fruit very freely, but at this date, July 15th, a large part of the fruit has fallen, and still continues to fall. For the middle and western part of the state there can be but a moderate or light crop. There will be but few peaches. Plums will give from a third to half a full crop. Pear trees as a rule set a fair crop and the fruit is hanging very well. Strawberries produced abundantly, but the late varieties were shortened by dry weather, which has prevailed here since the early part of June. The same cause has greatly reduced the output of raspberries, many plantations not being worth picking. In some parts of Western New York the Concord grape is bearing very light or about half a full crop.

* *

The Canna as an Aquatic Plant.

La Semaine Horticole states that a correspondent of the Geneva (Switzerland) Horticultural Society confirms what had already been published in the bulletin of that society, that good results could be obtained in cultivating cannas as aquatic plants. His statement follows:

We have read, in *Le Jardin*, that cannas could be cultivated in water and serve for ornamentation in artificial ponds during summer. We tried last year some good varieties of Crozy and others, among them the magnificent Queen Charlotte; the trial fully succeeded, and we strongly urge our friends to try it. In this manner can be obtained a luxuriant vegetation lighted up with brilliant flower spikes of this ravishing plant, and which give to the pieces of water thus treated a distinguished appearance.

* *

Strawberries and Roses in Minnesota.

At the summer meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, as reported in the *Minnesota Horticulturist*, Mr. Clarence Wedge spoke briefly on what he was pleased to call his new hobby, a new rose for the North. "Blanc Double de Courbet is the name which some wordy person has chosen to inflict upon the most beautiful and valuable white rose for our State. It is a hybrid of the *Rugosa* and retains its hardiness and beautiful foliage, together with the double blossoms of some other rose with which it has been crossed. The catalogues mention it as bearing roses measuring five inches in diameter, but three and a half to four inches is about the size they average at our place. They are not fully

double, and like many of our good varieties, make the prettiest show when a little more than half open. It is produced in clusters of five to six, and each blossom remains in good form about two days. Like its *Rugosa* parent it blooms in periods throughout the summer."

At the same meeting Mr. J. S. Harris said: "Among the most promising strawberries I have seen this year is the Splendid, which originated in Illinois. It is of uniform size and a good bearer. They say you can pick four quarts in five minutes. It is a good berry for the market. I know of nothing better for the farmer than Beder Wood. The Warfield is best for productiveness with the Lovett to fertilize it. The Brandywine is excellent for marketing and in canning it comes out perfect in color; it is not so productive as Beder Wood, but the plants are strong and healthy and the berries are easy to pick."

* *

Disease of Sweet Peas.

Accounts come from various sources of the dying of sweet pea plants, the first appearance of the disease being at or near the surface of the ground; there the stem decays and presently the whole plant fails. Although this disease has prevailed to some extent for several years and in many parts of the country, no treatment has yet been discovered by which it can be avoided or arrested. The most appropriate suggestions which have been offered indicate the advisability of planting on soil that had been enriched the year before, or such as in fairly fertile condition, and not in trenches prepared with manure immediately before planting. Also, to maintain the moisture in the soil by keeping it hoed, and always having a layer of loose soil, two or three inches in depth, at the surface, and by so doing avoid the necessity of artificial watering, even in a dry time.

* *

The New Flora.

AN ILLUSTRATED FLORA OF THE NORTHERN UNITED STATES, CANADA AND THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS from Newfoundland to the Parallel of the Southern Boundary of Virginia and from the Atlantic Ocean to the 102nd Meridian, By Nathaniel Lord Britton, Ph. D., Emeritus Professor of Botany in Columbia University, and Director-in-Chief of the New York Botanical Garden, and Hon. Addison Brown, Professor of the Torrey Botanical Club. Three Volumes. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons. Price, \$9.00.

This valuable and handsome botanical work, which has at different times been noticed in our pages, has been brought to a close, the third and last volume having been issued in July. The authors and the publishers may be congratulated on the completion and issue of this truly great work. The three quarto volumes embrace 1,843 pages, and the total number of engravings is 4,162, there being that number of plants described, and each one having an illustration. This represents an immense amount of labor by the authors both before and during the actual preparation for the publication. The descriptions are models of brevity, accuracy and completeness, and the outline engravings skilfully present the main characteristics of each plant and the points of differences between species. Each volume has its special index and the last volume contains a general index of Latin names. There is, also, an English index, including popular plant names. A Glossary of Special Terms supplies the information one may desire about the exact use of terms. A list of the "Names of Authors" or so-called authorities, is given in explanation of their abbreviations as used through the body of the work. A General Key to the Orders and Families supplies the means of tracing plants unknown to the student. The typography and printing are models of excellence, and each volume is substantially and elegantly bound in cloth.

In this work the public is offered a treatise on the plants of a large part of North America, superior to anything before published, and the only fully illustrated flora. It will remain indefinitely a standard work. In regard to nomenclature the authors have observed the principles adopted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and as a result, in some cases, the generic, and sometimes both the generic and specific, names are different from those recognized by Gray and other standard botanical writers, and also by horticultural and pharmaceutical authorities. These changes, however, are not so many but they will be readily overcome, at least by the younger botanical students, gardeners and pharmacists. In comparison with the last, or sixth, edition of Gray's Manual there appear to be forty more orders or families than in that work; these apparently new orders are, for the most part, formed by raising some of the sub-orders of the Manual to the position of orders. The total number of orders in the Illustrated Flora is 177. The new work is indispensable for students and teachers of botany, for gardeners and horticulturists generally, and for all who require to know about our native plants.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, and to publish the experiences of our readers.

EDITORS.

Propagating Leopard Plant.

Please state in your MAGAZINE how to propagate the leopard plant, *Farfugium grande*.

Yarmouth, N. S.

MRS. B. B. S.

This plant is propagated by division of the roots, and also by root cuttings. The divisions and cuttings when made should be given, if possible, the benefit of a slight bottom heat in a propagating pit or hotbed, until roots and new leaves are well developed.

++

Coffee Grounds and Soap Suds as Fertilizers.

1—Will you kindly inform your readers whether "coffee grounds" are good as fertilizers for some garden flowers?

2—Also whether soapsuds can be used as a fertilizer for sweet peas, etc.

Chicago, Ill.

J. A. P.

1—Coffee grounds are not worth saving or using for a fertilizer.

2—Soapsuds are used to very much advantage in the garden, especially for trees, shrubs, grape vines and climbers, and very likely may be employed to good advantage in watering sweet peas.

++

Dark Roses—Poppies.

1—Is the Meteor rose darker than General Jacqueminot or Prince Camille de Rohan? I would like an almost black rose or one that is called a black rose. Is the Meteor a valuable rose?

2—Can I sow poppy seed this fall and have a good poppy bed next summer? I would like to have two sowings; one in the fall that I may have early blooms, then sow in the spring that I may have late ones.

Lowman, Chemung Co., N. Y.

C. G. H.

1—Prince Camille de Rohan is the darkest of the three varieties mentioned and the darkest of all the H. P. roses. It is, also, hardier than Meteor. Meteor is the darkest of Hybrid Tea roses, and is, also, a favorite forcing variety.

2—Poppy seeds sown late in the fall will start very early in the spring. Several sowings can also be made in the spring so as to carry the blooming period of the plants over several months.

++

Winter Care of Dahlias and Other Tuberous Bulbs.

Please explain in your MAGAZINE how to care for bulbs, dahlias, etc. Like the MAGAZINE well.

Amherst, Ontario.

J. G.

When frosts come, dahlias can have the stems cut away and be lifted. Stand the clumps of tubers in a shady place out of doors for a few days, covering at night if a frost is feared. Thus exposed to the air the tubers will lose a portion of moisture and be in better condition to keep well in a cellar, where they can be placed in a box or boxes of sand that is nearly dry. Caladiums can be treated in the same way. The cellar should be nearly dry and quite frost proof; if damp there is danger that the tubers will mold. Gladiolus corms after lifting can be laid away on a shelf or kept in a drawer in a cool, dry, airy room free from frost, the temperature being kept from 50° to 60° during the cold season. Tuberose bulbs may be kept in the same way, only needing a higher temperature of 65° to 70°. If tuberose bulbs are kept in too low a temperature there is danger that the bulb will be destroyed.

++

Propagating Mountain Ash.

We have a tree here that is called Mountain Ash, that is used for a lawn and shade tree. It has bunches of white flowers in early summer and produces clusters of red berries. I wish to know how this tree can be propagated. If from the seed, how should the seed be taken care of?

Laurium, Mich.

J. B.

The mountain ash can be propagated by seeds, but they are very slow to start. The berries should be gathered and mixed with soil and left out exposed to the weather for a year before planting. If mixed with soil and placed in a box with cracks in it so that water can pass through, the box can be sunk to its edge or a little below in the ground and left out during winter and until the ensuing fall. Then the soil containing the berries can be taken out and spread on a floor to partially dry, so that it can be rubbed through a sieve that will separate it from the seeds. The separation of the seeds is not absolutely necessary, and soil and seeds together may be sown in a drill, covering about an inch deep. The young plants will appear in the spring and can be cultivated in the seed drills for one or two years and then be taken up and tops and roots shortened and transplanted into nursery rows to be grown on until ready for final removal.

Pink and Cyclamen.

1—Please tell me through your MAGAZINE the proper treatment for Her Majesty pink, in order to produce bloom.

2—What is the proper treatment for cyclamen in summer?

L. A. H.

Minneapolis, Minn.

1—The pink named does well planted out in the open ground, and in saying this the treatment is indicated,—good soil, good culture, and a sufficient supply of moisture. If the plants are healthy and vigorous they will bloom. There is probably no reason why garden pinks should not be as successfully raised at Minneapolis as in this region.

2—Cyclamen bulbs in summer should be left in the pots and kept in a shady place out doors, and be supplied with only enough water to prevent their shrivelling. The last of August or early in September repot the bulbs in fresh, light and rich soil, in four- or five-inch pots, giving good drainage. A well ventilated coldframe is now a good place for them until it becomes necessary to remove them to the house or greenhouse, and here they can be supplied with water as needed and daily spraying.

++

Diseased Clematis and Roses.

Will you please to tell me what ails the Clematis paniculata when the leaves turn as in the sample enclosed. The trouble begins in the coarser part of the vine and seems likely to go all through it. I have examined it carefully and can find no worms or insects on it. This vine has grown to the height of four or five feet without branching at all. After that it is very pretty. It is must be sixteen or eighteen feet long. How can I make it branch out below? I would like to have it do so almost at the ground. Would it be safe to cut it back next spring?

What is the matter with the leaves of the Jacqueminot rose when they spot and die as these have done which I send. We have two or three bushes. They bloom luxuriantly, then the leaves spot, turn yellow, die and drop off. At this time the bushes are almost bare of foliage. They do this every summer. I use hellebore to keep the slugs off, but that doesn't injure the other roses. This season we have had a small white fly, which does as much injury as the slug, and is more difficult to control.

Springboro, Ohio.

H. W.

The clematis is affected with a fungus. The rose is also a host for a fungus, the well-known Black Spot. The proper thing now to do with both of these plants is to spray with Bordeaux mixture, repeating the operation about every three weeks. Although the roses may now be nearly leafless, yet they will start a new growth, and this later crop of leaves, if they can be maintained in a healthy condition, will be of much service in properly maturing the growth already made, and preparing it to endure the winter. See instructions relating to Bordeaux mixture in May MAGAZINE, page 104. The diseased leaves at the lower part of the clematis should be picked off and burned. To make the clematis branch cut it back next spring within two or three feet of the ground.

++

Currants and a Currant Insect.

1—A year ago last spring I had from you fifty each of Cherry Currants and Fay's Prolific. They have grown into sturdy bushes, but, while Fay's prolific this year bears fine fruit, the Cherry currants have scarcely a sign of fruit. Is there something wrong, or does the Fay's Prolific always come into bearing earlier? Both varieties look equally fine.

2—Another thing, many of the currants—fully half, I think,—are turning red and dropping early. On examining them I find they have a small blemish on them and a tiny worm inside. Can anything be done to prevent this?

Thanking you for information in the past.

Mrs. E. H. H.

Bath, Me.

1—The Cherry currant, in this case, has been making so strong a growth that few fruit spurs were made last year, and consequently but little fruit this season. But the plants will be all the more able to bear another year, and there need be no fear concerning them.

2—The insect infesting the currant fruit, as above mentioned, is undoubtedly what is called the Currant Fly, *Epochra Canadensis*. In relation to it, Saunders, in "Insects Injurious to Fruits," says: "This insect is occasionally found attacking the fruit of both the red and the white currant. In its perfect state it is a small two-winged fly, which lays its eggs on the currants while they are small; the larva enters them while still green, and feeds on their contents, leaving a round black scar at the point of entry. The affected currants ripen prematurely, and shortly decay and drop to the ground, when, on opening them, there will be found in each a small white grub, about one-third of an inch long, which, when mature, leaves the currant and probably passes the chrysalis state under ground."

As the habits and the life cycle of this insect are similar, in fact almost identical, with those of the Gooseberry Fruit-worm, the same means may be employed to destroy it. The most important operation is to pick off the prematurely colored berries as soon as discovered and burn them. By carefully doing this for two years the number of the insects will be greatly lessened. Dusting the bushes with air slacked lime soon after the blooming season, and repeating it after heavy rains, will prevent the fly, to a great extent, from depositing their eggs on the berries.

The Little Black Fly.

Please inform me through the MAGAZINE what will destroy the little black fly that is so destructive to all young plants. I have tried everything. MRS. C. W. Pillsbury, Minn.

This inquiry is a very indefinite one, although the writer characterizes the insect as "destructive to all young plants." Is there any such insect? The editor is not acquainted with it. It may refer to a little fly that sometimes visits pot plants and whose larvæ are found in the soil, for there are frequent complaints and inquiries about this "Little Black Fly." On the other hand there are many plant growers who appear to be ignorant of this insect, or, if they know about it, never have any trouble from it. The objection appears to be that the white worms should infest the soil, though in all that has been written about this insect there has never been a clear statement made in regard to the character of the injury done, either by the fly or the grub. Quite a variety of methods have been given for the successful destruction of these grubs in the soil, or "little white worms" as they are usually termed. Here are some of them:

One correspondent says, "I sprinkle a very little pulverized saltpeter on the earth in pots and then water with hot water; have found it very effectual in killing the little rascals." Another says: "I always can get rid of them in twenty-four hours. I use one teaspoonful of liquid ammonia to one quart of water, and use enough to wet the dirt well." One of our correspondents gave the following recipe: A teaspoonful of copras dissolved in a little water, and then enough water added to make two quarts. Water about twice a week, being careful not to get it on the foliage. Several applications may be necessary, but will do no harm as it is quite a fertilizer. Here is another method: Take a common teacupful of warm soft water, and dissolve enough soap in it to make a very slight suds. To this add two teaspoonfuls of kerosene, thoroughly stir and then apply to plants as you would in watering. An old German gardener advised the use of pepper tea. One teaspoonful of ground white pepper to one quart boiling water. Some say that soaking the soil with lime water will kill white worms as surely as it will angle worms.

Now, as to the flies, if some powdered tobacco, or a little smoking tobacco, is laid on the surface of the soil the fly will be kept away.

If the insect here referred to is not the one intended, then our correspondent must be more precise, and describe it and its operations.

Shrubs, Trees and Plants for Cemetery Lot.

What shrub and ornamental trees could you recommend for a plat in cemetery 24 x 34 feet? There are no graves excepting one of an infant. The plat slopes toward the south. I do not object to evergreens, but would not give them the preference. Your advice would be greatly appreciated. MRS. J. B. C. Centreville, Crawford Co., Pa.

It is not best to plant very much in a cemetery lot, and what is placed there should be well selected and well placed. Different regulations are observed in different localities and cemeteries in regard to such planting, while in many cemeteries the owner is left to his own judgment in the matter. The planting should mostly be on the margin of the lot, but something will also depend on the planting, if there be any, of the adjacent lots. All that can be said, then, is that the planting should never be so that the general view of the lot is hidden or obscured. Mention is made of evergreen trees, meaning conifers. Trees of this kind that in time will grow tall should never find a place in a cemetery lot; there are places in all cemeteries where such trees can appropriately stand, but not in the lots. The small and slow growing kinds of Arbor vitæ, juniper and yew are sparingly admissible. Some of the best of these are the Irish, the Swedish and the dwarf Swedish junipers; Hovey's Golden, Pyramidal, Little Gem and Tom Thumb Arbor vitæ, and for a large lot the Siberian Arbor vitæ; Retinispora plumosa and R. plumosa aurea; and of the yew, Taxus baccata erecta, T. baccata elegantissima and T. cuspidata. We would advise that not more than one of these tree be placed on a small lot, and not more than two of them on a large lot. The cut-leaved weeping birch is much planted as a cemetery tree,—but too much so usually. Small growing trees are preferable for lot planting. The weeping beech is desirable, and the purple-leaved beech is very fine, though in time it becomes too large for a lot tree; the European mountain ash is a very good tree for the purpose, and so is the oak-leaved mountain ash. The upright or Pyramidal oak, which grows in the form of a Lombardy poplar, may be used in some places with good effect. For low growing, drooping, or so-called weeping trees, the best are the weeping Russian mulberry, the weeping ash, weeping mountain ash, the Kilmarnock weeping willow, Siebold's weeping willow, and the Camperdown weeping elm.

Some shrubs best adapted to cemetery lots are Spiræa VanHouttei, S. arguta, S. Reevesii or lanceolata flore pleno, S. Bumalda, and the Golden-leaved spiræa; the Japan snowball, the purple-leaved barberry, Deutzia gracilis, and the hardy hydrangea, H. paniculata variegata. Of

hardy herbaceous plants the following are appropriate: Herbaceous peonies, the white and a rose-color, or any of the light colored varieties; Achillea ptarmica flore pleno, Japan Anemone Whirlwind, lily of the valley, the white flowered Plantain lily, Funkia grandiflora alba, Hypericum Moserianum, the periwinkles, Vinca coerulea minor and V. c. minor variegata, and V. major variegata. There are many other herbaceous perennials that may be employed under particular conditions.

Our correspondent may be disappointed because we have not fixed upon a small number of trees and plants, and said, authoritatively, plant these. But plainly this cannot be done. The selection must be made for the particular place and correspond to, or supplement, the planting of the surrounding grounds. All the above named are hardy and reliable.

* *

PRUNING ROSES. No. II.

THE concluding portion of the communication in the *Journal of Horticulture* by "Practice," the first of which appeared in our columns last month, is here given. In future numbers the subject will be continued, with illustrations drawn last spring from specimens in the garden.

ROSE PRUNING, BY "PRACTICE," CONCLUDED.

Fig. 3 is a two-year-old Duke of Edinburgh. The cross lines show where to prune this if a bush is wanted; and the four dotted lines where it should be pruned if intended for pegging down, as exemplified in fig. 4. For this purpose the long sucker-like rods, a, b, c, d, will only be pruned back a few inches from the point, and then secured in a horizontal position, where they will flower almost every well ripened eye. The vigorous Teas, Hybrid Teas, and Hybrid Perpetuals may be treated



FIG. 3—H. P. DUKE OF EDINBURGH

similarly, following one or other of these systems according to whether a fairly well shaped bush or a larger quantity of flowers are needed. Those varieties named as between the types of figs. 2 and 3 should be pruned midway between the two illustrations.

Fig. 4 represents a Madame Gabriel Luizet that was pegged down last year. The side shoots have flowered, and should be cut off at the cross marks. It generally happens that the wood on these side shoots is so ripe and sound that many are tempted to prune such as shown by the dotted lines (figs. 3 and 4), but if we do so we get a less number of flowers, and these of inferior quality to what would be the case if the long shoots a, b, c, d, were pegged down, and the older wood cut out entirely. There are many of our vigorous growing Teas, Noisettes, Hybrid Perpetuals, and others, which give a far better display when pegged down in this way than grown as an ordinary bush.

When these same varieties are upon a wall or fence, it is better to save as much as possible of the longest and most vigorous growths, making room for these by cutting out older wood.

Fig. 5 shows a rose planted in the autumn, one of many thousands that will soon need pruning. The upper buds are elongating considerably, as is the case also with the older plants above referred to, though the advancing growths are not depicted. As a rule the longer in season these basal buds remain dormant the safer the growths which issue from them are against the accident of frost, and the earlier the pruning the sooner those buds are pushed into danger. That is why many cautious persons defer the pruning till March is well advanced, and then the stems of the young roses are cut down to the marks, or lower even, at the risk of some "bleeding," from which plants unchecked by frost soon seem to recover.

So far as the best time for pruning roses is concerned quite as much



FIG. 4—H. P. MADAME GABRIEL LUIZET

depends upon the position as the season. In low and moist situations we suffer from late spring frosts much more than upon a high and fairly dry soil. Nor do the plants in the latter case make such precocious growth as when in a warmer and more sheltered spot.

Make it a point to cut back to a sound eye, having this facing away from the center of the plant where possible, and cut the wood back close to the terminal eye or bud.

The rambling roses, such as Ayrshires, Boursaults, Evergreens, and hybrids of similar growth, merely need some of the older wood thinned out and last year's shoots left their entire length.

* *

SUGGESTIONS.

Do not be discouraged by the failure of others who have not had any "luck" at all with bulbous plants. What has been done can be done, and the windows of your friends will give you certain proof that one can succeed with bulbs in the house. If you go about it in the right way you can succeed.

The writer has been asked what he thinks of the gladiolus as a house plant. His reply is that he thinks them very poorly adapted to house culture. In fact, he doubts if one could succeed with them at all. And why attempt to do so when there are so many beautiful house plants that will bloom freely in your windows?

If you have the privilege of selecting your own Easter lily bulbs get one three or four inches across, and see that it is not soft and porous like a decaying onion. The vitality has departed from a soft, spongy bulb. The small bulbs will be cheaper, but you will not get so many flowers from them. One can put three large bulbs in a ten- or twelve-inch pot, and, if properly cultivated, one ought to get six or eight perfect flowers from each bulb. The effect when they are all in bloom is very fine.

City dwellers, when in the country, frequently take a great deal of trouble to secure roots of the most delicate wild flowers to transplant to their city gardens, hoping to coax the rural beauties to bloom in the atmosphere of the city. Very few wild flowers take kindly to civilization, and it is impossible to give to the ordinary city garden the conditions that exist in the native soil and surroundings from which the wild flowers were taken. It seems best to let them grow where nature intended that they should grow.

The cyclamen will give good satisfaction as a winter bloomer. A four-inch pot will be quite large enough for a bulb of ordinary size. Give it the same soil you would give to any bulb, with perhaps a little more sand. Do not entirely cover the bulb,—leave fully one-half of the bulb exposed. The cyclamen does not require as much water as most bulbous plants, and yet the soil should never become dry. The red spider sometimes appears on the leaves, but frequent showerings will cause him to take his departure. It is a very fine bloomer and cannot but please those who cultivate it.

There is the bouvardia, an extremely beautiful house plant, and yet one not often seen in winter window gardens. It is not of the easiest cultivation, and yet it can be made to grow and bloom freely in the ordinary window garden. Its chief requirements are warmth, a good deal



FIG. 5—PRUNING NEWLY PLANTED ROSES.

of moisture, and as even a temperature as possible; sudden changes of temperature are likely to injure it, and if the room can be kept at a heat of 65° or 70° all the better. The plant is liable to be infested with insects, but these can be gotten rid of just as you would get rid of them on the rose. Get a good, vigorous plant of your florist and ask him for further directions regarding its culture.

* *

FIRST FLOWERS OF SPRING.

THE first bright flowers of the season have a most cheering influence.

One wearies of the brown barrenness of winter, and the first flowers, like the first bird songs, bring a thrill of pleasure. Why not see to it in the fall that there shall be no dearth of early spring flowers. When there is such a multiplicity of bulbs which have enfolded within their modest brown covering flowers of every hue and which can be sent to your very door at your bidding (backed by a trifling sum of money) every one should be refreshed and made glad by an abundance of bright bloom. Do not let another year pass without investing in at least a hundred crocus bulbs; procure them in the fall, plant them here and there in quaint corners, in out of the way places, as if they had happened to find a sheltered nook just suited to them, or in borders along the walk where they will be seen and enjoyed a dozen times a day. It is such a simple matter to tuck them away in the brown earth, and let them sleep through the chill winter. They are hardy little bulbs to endure so much cold, to sleep undisturbed through snow, sleet and rain. You think some biting cold mornings, "The crocuses will surely be frozen, and there will be no flowers this season," but, lo and behold! some bright morning when the snow is scarcely yet melted, the crocuses are pushing their way



GROUP OF CROCUS.

up to get a breath of air and a touch of sunlight, and in an incredibly short time they are at the height of their glory; white, blue, yellow, white striped with blue veins, etc., as if they were having a gay little party out on the lawn. And there are the winged creatures to welcome and rejoice over them too. The honey bees are searching for sweets; the great buzzing fly has found them out, and smaller insects galore are scurrying about as fast as they can to get what the busy bee leaves behind. The temptation to pluck a dainty bouquet to brighten the table cannot be resisted. And here among them is an odd one, with an independent look about it. It has four stamens, and eight divisions to the corolla; it has started on a different course from the ordinary six parted crocuses, and you see how one can go on finding more and more interesting things about the crocus flower—and if you had time to talk about the bulb itself, we would understand how the flowers could burst into bloom almost like magic apparently, as if it did not take time to grow, but came like a fairy, one knows not how. Raising bulbs is an economical form of pleasure. In fact, so great is the reward for the labor that it seems a luxury to revel in crocus bulbs.

MRS. W. A. K.

Columbus, Ohio.

* *

A LITTLE GIRL'S GARDEN.

With a great hoe and rake, both too large for her by far, Dimple Chin is busy as the busiest gardeners are; On her little bit of garden she has planted lots of things, Flowers, and vegetables too, yet other seed she brings.

Here's a plant whose strength was sapped by the roots of her peach tree, Just because the little maid set them close as close could be; What's the use, I really wonder, working hard with rake and hoe, If a gardener crowds the flowers till they haven't room to grow?

MARGARET A. RICHARD.



Plan for more outdoor life.

Table flowers help the appetite.

Winter radish seed should go in.

Surely the scarlet vallota is queen now.

Do you permit summer disorder in the greenhouse?

Annuals show their appreciation of a dose of liquid manure.

Horse radish that is tilled makes its growth from this time on. Keep the hoe going.

An onion odor to the breath, how unpleasant! Eating a bit of parsley will neutralize it.

The pretty asparagus green contributes to the more ready sale of many cheap summer bouquets in the city markets.

If a tree of extra size is to be reset next fall prepare it now by pruning the roots with a sharp spade to a circle as far back as you wish to preserve the roots at planting time.

A Nunda, N. Y., paper publishes all notices of the village cemetery gratuitously. The editor generously says he gets his pay from seeing the grounds kept in good order. That is capital.

Summer is visiting time for many people. Of course every visitor must see the garden,

and then is a good time to drop a hint about your favorite garden magazine. Tens of thousands of persons would be delighted to subscribe if they but knew of its merits and low price.

Removing the Leaves. I am convinced that the plan of removing a lot of leaves from trees or grape vines, to admit sun to the fruit and presumably hastening ripening, is a most pernicious one. Leaves are the nourishing organs, the lungs of trees, and to remove them is a detriment to fruit development. More than that, any branches stripped of leaves this year, will have weak, ill-formed buds next year, which means feeble growth.—*L. G. A., Cortland Co., N. Y.*

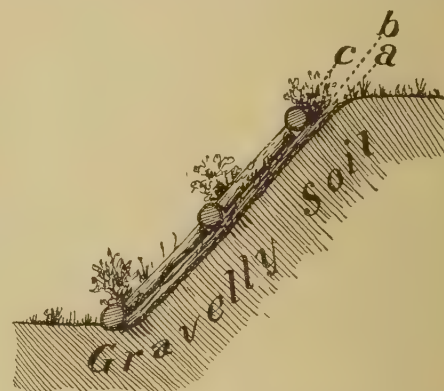
Cancelled mortgages. That exhibit of a car-load of paid-off mortgages, which forms a feature of the present Omaha Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, is worthy of mention. Those mortgages had stood against farms west of the Mississippi river, and all have been paid off during the past twenty months. It is an object lesson which should serve somewhat in stemming the tide of our young people on farms to the city and to ills they know not of. Show us a line of city business that can make so grand an exhibit, and then we may listen to arguments on the other side. But it cannot be done.

The Garden should be considered as "home" quite as much as the house. And yet we see people spending money lavishly on the dwelling, both as regards inside and outside decorations, and then skimp the lawn and surroundings amazingly. It is poor policy. To draw the indoor ones out, the garden should be more alluring in the highest degree with handsome turf, shade trees, flowers, seats and other objects. To live more in the garden means better health,

longer life and higher joys for every member of the home. Americans have yet some steps to advance before they show anything like the appreciation of good gardens that our English cousins manifest.

Potting soil. Are you still of the number who think any kind of "black dirt" is the soil par-excellence for house plants? If so, quit the idea and learn a lesson from our successful florists and plant growers. They know exactly what they set their plants into, because they prepare the soil themselves. This is a common formula and which can be prepared by anyone, midsummer being a good time for the work: Two parts of turf lifted from an old meadow, cutting the pieces about two inches thick; one part of clear stable manure. Pile this material in layers; soak the heap with water. In about three weeks cut it down from one end with a sharp spade; turn the pile over several times before autumn, when it will be ready for use.

Shifting Slopes. An inquiry comes for information how to prevent a conspicuous gravel slope from working its way back towards a garden, by the constant loosening of the gravel. Such slopes have been treated as shown in the accompanying sketch, with good results. That



has been in cases where a fair admixture of soil has been held by the gravel. The idea is to keep the bank from slipping, by holding it down, so to speak, and preventing the action of the rain, and measurably of frost, thereon, and then in time have the surface covered with soil and vegetation. The first thing to be done is to cut some poles four or more inches in diameter and to provide some brush, strong manure and loam. The slope should be evened up a little if necessary, and a coat of straw manure, about three inches deep, be spread over the surface, beginning at the bottom, to form the layer *a*, as shown in the engraving. Next should come layer *b*, consisting of small branches and twigs layed up and down. To keep this material in place, the poles and uprights are used as shown at *c*. The first pole is laid at the foot of the slope, being sunken in the soil slightly. Then some uprights about four feet long are set up against the bank, at intervals of about eight feet, the lower ends resting on the first pole. Pole number two is laid on tops of these uprights, and so on until the bank is covered. Then some fairly rich loam from a cultivated field, should be heavily scattered over and through the brush and manure to fill up the interstices. This soil will lie most thickly against the poles. Over all should be scattered some grass seed; and Virginia creeper and other vines, also small shrubs should be planted at intervals along the upper line of the poles. With a little looking after in later seasons, a complete mat in time will cover the slope.

Star Collection

for 1898 is one of the best collections ever offered. We cannot substitute, as the bulbs are grown in Holland and put up especially for our trade. We buy very large quantities which enables us to sell at almost wholesale. Orders will be filled in the order they are received, as long as the stock holds out. Send orders early,—we shall begin mailing as soon as the bulbs arrive.

50 Bulbs for \$1

- 1 Hyacinth, Prince of Orange, bright red
- 1 " Prince of Saxe-Weimar, blue
- 1 " La Virginite, Pure white.
- 2 " Early White Roman. Each bulb produces several graceful spikes of flowers.
- 5 Tulips, Single Early, including pure white, golden yellow, brilliant scarlet, and the handsome Parrot tulip.
- 6 Freesias, An early and beautiful white bloom, very fragrant.
- 4 Anemones. The well-known Wind-flower; finest colors, including The Bride, pure white.

- 6 Crocus. Large, fine bulbs; the first harbingers of Spring.
- 6 Oxalis. Among the most beautiful and effective flowering plants.
- 5 Narcissus. Comprising all the well-known sorts.
- 3 Jonquils. Admirably adapted for window culture. Sweet scented.
- 5 Ixias. Few flowers attract more attention; curious in form and strange colorings.
- 4 Allium Neapolitanum. Beautiful white flowers growing in clusters. Will start to grow as soon as potted.

James Vicks Sons, Rochester

A SONG OF GLADNESS.

Another balmy morning
 With rose-tints everywhere,
 More skies all warm and dappled,
 More song-birds in the air,
 Than yesterday.
 More fragrance in the blossoms
 More sprays of pink and white,
 More rustling in the treetops,
 More leaflets green and bright,
 More wild flowers in the meadow,
 More sun the buds to swell,
 More gold upon the hilltops,
 More shadows in the dell.
 More jewels in the grasses,
 More diamonds on the leaves,
 More moisture on the green blades
 That promise golden sheaves,
 Than yesterday.
 More bees amid the clover,
 More butterflies adrift,
 More pansies in the garden
 Their pretty heads uplift;
 More roses on the bushes,
 More lilies on the stem,
 More sparkle in the fountain,
 And every spray a gem.
 Within my heart more singing,
 More thankfulness, more praise,
 Less fretting, more contented
 With God's appointed ways
 Than yesterday.
 Less worry over trials,
 Less fear, less doubt, less care,
 More sure life's adverse breezes
 Will leave our sunset fair;
 More joy in this believing—
 "At eve it shall be light";
 More faith that we are nearing
 The Heaven that hath no night.
 —M. J. MEADER SMITH.

* *

WATER CRESS AT HOME.

Those who are fond of water cress will be glad to know that enough for family use can be easily raised in a tub or half barrel in one's own yard. Earth is generally used in the bottom of the tub, though not always, but it seems to me that the plants grow stronger and more rapidly if earth is given them. The roots grow mostly in water in the creeks, to be sure, yet they must

derive much strength from the soil beneath them. Fill the tub to the brim with water and make a sort of net work of wire or twigs to cover the tub; fasten it securely and then place small sprays of cress all over the screen so that the roots will reach down into the water. It should be placed in a partially shaded situation and will soon begin to grow and can be cut every few days. The tub must be kept full of water and be run over, once in a while, to prevent the water becoming foul. A little ammonia and charcoal placed in the water occasionally is a great benefit, the former as a fertilizer and the latter as a cleansing medium.

The cress is very useful to the housekeeper, being fine for a green salad, useful in seasoning many relishes, as well as forming the basis for a very delicate sandwich. If the cress roots are difficult to obtain, the plants can be raised from seed; they should be planted in very moist soil and be transplanted to the tub as soon as they are of sufficient size. Z.

* *

HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

Below will be found recipes for cooking vegetables now in market. These have all been used by experts and found excellent:

Corn Boiled on the Cob—To retain its sweetness corn should be cooked as soon as possible after picking. If necessary to keep over night spread it out singly on the cellar floor, as quickly as received. Do not open or tear the husk till ready to boil. Remove the husks and every thread of silk. Have a kettle of boiling water ready, add salt, then put in the corn and cook ten minutes after water begins to boil.

Corn Soup—Three ears of corn, remove from the cob, and boil cobs in three pints of soup stock very slowly one-half hour. Take out cobs, put in the corn, and boil twenty minutes, then rub the corn through a sieve, add salt and pepper to taste. Boil again and stir into the soup a tablespoonful of flour and butter mixed. When it thickens add one cupful of boiling milk. Let this mixture come to a boil, add one beaten egg and serve.

Green Corn Fritters—Cut the corn from three good sized ears and chop it slightly. Add one well beaten egg, half cup of milk, one tablespoonful of sugar, half teaspoonful of salt, quarter teaspoonful of pepper; add flour enough to make a thin batter. Put one teaspoonful of baking powder in the flour; fry to a golden brown in boiling fat.

Green Corn Pudding—Two dozen ears of corn; one quart milk; four eggs; one tablespoonful salt; two teaspoonfuls of sugar; one teaspoonful flour. Grate the corn, add milk, eggs, salt and sugar. If corn is young, add one or two tablespoonfuls of flour. Bake in a greased pan two hours, and if quantity is greatly increased, three hours. Bake moderately.

String Beans—After stringing the beans, cut each one into about three pieces. Put them into a kettle of boiling water, add a piece of butter, and when partly done, add one teaspoonful of salt. Boil thirty-five minutes. Drain, add to each quart two ounces of butter, dust over them a tablespoonful of flour, add gill of cream or milk, bring to boiling point, add salt and pepper and serve. The first butter softens the beans while they are boiling.

Lima Beans à la Poulette—Pint of young beans, yolk of two eggs, tablespoonful of butter, dash of pepper, two tablespoonfuls flour, level; half pint of milk, half teaspoonful salt, half teaspoonful onion juice. Beans should be covered with boiling water, add speck of soda and boil thirty minutes. Drain, put butter in sauce pan, after it is melted add the flour, mix; add the milk, stir till boiling, then add salt, pepper and onion juice. Take from fire, add yolks of eggs, beaten. Dish the beans, pour over the sauce and serve hot.

Cucumber Salad Cups—Select medium sized cucumbers, pare carefully and cut off the two ends, cut them in halves lengthwise, take out the seeds and put the cucumbers into ice water for two hours. When ready for use wipe the cucumbers dry, set them on a bed of lettuce leaves, asparagus leaves, cress, parsley or any pretty garniture, and fill the shells with lobster, salmon or shrimp salad, asparagus, potato or vegetable salad; mix with mayonnaise before stuffing and put more on top afterwards.

USE whitening or damp salt to remove egg stains from silver.

PILES RUDY'S Suppository

is guaranteed to cure PILES, (bleeding, itching, protruding, inward), whether of recent or long standing, or money refunded. It gives instant relief, and effects a radical and permanent cure. No surgical operation required. Try it and relieve your sufferings. Send for list of testimonials and free sample. Only 50 cts. a box. For sale by druggists, or sent by mail on receipt of price.

MARTIN RUDY, Reg. Pharmacist, Lancaster, Pa.

FRANKLIN COLLEGE NEW ATHENS, O.
 74th yr. Board, tuition, room and books, \$2.80 to \$3.00 a week; total cost \$140 a year; 8 courses; both sexes; no saloons; catalog free, with plan to earn funds. W. A. WILLIAMS, D.D., Pres.

Choice Tulips

Both Single and Double Superfine mixed. Our choicest selection from best named colors

Per dozen 25 cents, per 100 \$1.00.

Add 40 cents per 100 to the 100 price if wanted by mail

Highland Park Collection of Tulips.

We offer a collection of Single Early Tulips, which are beautiful and showy for bedding purposes. A bed 4x10 feet will require 207 bulbs, planted five inches apart. A bed 3x4 feet will require fifty-four bulbs. A circular bed six feet across or eighteen feet in circumference will require 200 bulbs.

207 bulbs—60 yellow, 60 white, 60 red, 27 variegated (center) } \$3.00
 54 bulbs—same colors as the above, in proper proportion } 85 cts
 200 bulbs—for circular bed, 80 scarlet, 80 yellow, 40 white } \$2.90
 Delivered free—All charges prepaid.

Hyacinths

Single or Double, in separate colors, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Pure White, Blush White, Rose and Pink, Dark Red, Yellow, and Purple.

Each 7 cents; per dozen 75 cents; per 100 \$4.00.

We pay postage at single and dozen prices.

Add 40 cents per 100 to the 100 price if wanted by mail

Collection No. 5

Contains the following choice named bulbs for house culture:

BARONESS VAN TUYL, pure white
 MIMOSA, dark blue
 LA PRECIEUSE, bright porcelain
 NORMA, lovely pink
 AMY, beautiful blush pink, large
 ROBERT STEIGER, fine deep red
 Sent postpaid for 55 cents.

Collection No. 6

Contains the following choice named bulbs for outdoor culture:

PRINCE OF SAXE-WEIMAR, porcelain, striped
 CARL, CROWN PRINCE OF SWEDEN, dark
 QUEEN VICTORIA, brilliant rose [blue
 GROOTVORST, fine blush pink
 KING OF WURTEMBERG, dark blue
 LE TOUR D'AUVERGNE, pure white
 Sent postpaid for 60 cents.

No 5 and 6 Collections sent to one address for \$1.05.

James Vicks Sons,
 Rochester, N. Y.

VICI

Leather Dressing

The best Shoe Dressing in the world. The genuine is made only by Robert H. Foerderer, Philadelphia, manufacturer of the famous

VICI KID

Ask your dealer for Vici Leather Dressing, and be sure the trademark with the name of the maker, is on each box or bottle. Imitations may ruin your shoes.

A book about buying, wearing and caring for shoes, mailed free. Address
 ROBERT H. FOERDERER, Philada., Pa.

MY NEIGHBOR'S PLOT.

I looked across my well-kept yard
 Into my neighbor's plot,
 And saw, with ill-disguised disdain,
 Some growths which I had not;
 For here and there a noisome plant
 Or clump of worthless weeds,
 To me seemed quite inadequate
 To meet my neighbor's needs.

Just then the sun in glory burst
 From out a hindering cloud,
 And, wondering at the sight revealed,
 My head I meekly bowed;
 For there, beside my garden wall,
 Grew weeds so rank and high
 That many of my choicest plants
 Were hid from passers by.

Ah, me, I said, 'twill never do
 To waste both time and strength
 Upon my neighbor's garden, when
 My own may come at length
 To be a bed of noisome weeds,
 On earth's fair face a blot,
 And scatter harmful seeds, perhaps,
 Into my neighbor's plot.

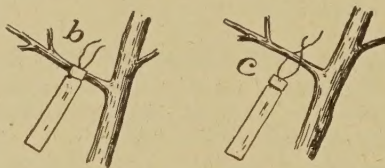
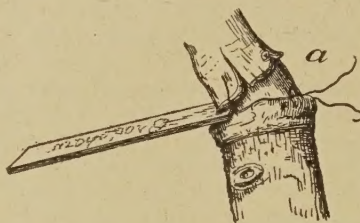
—MRS. S. E. KENNEDY.

ABOUT LABELS.

AS the writer passed through his young plum orchard some time ago, after a considerable absence, he noticed on one of the trees, the case of label strangulation illustrated herewith (a). The part of the branch beyond the label was completely dead, while the label and its wire were embedded in the growth as shown. Such cases of branch strangulation are of very frequent occurrence, although the writer does not now recall a similar instance in his own large plantation, for the simple reason that he takes much pains to prevent it.

The remedy is easy enough, and the more so if one's plantation of trees is small. It consists of seeing to it that no label wire is closely drawn around any branch. In other words, every label wire should be so loose as to allow of many years of growth before the branch to which it is attached, will fill out the loop. In

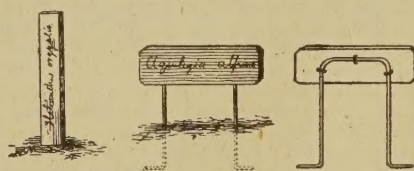
the illustrations b shows a label wire drawn so tightly as surely to cause strangulation if not remedied. The right hand drawing c shows the remedy as found in the enlarged loop. One precaution is necessary in forming a large loop in the wire, namely, to see that the branch on which the label is attached, has some lateral twigs outside the label to keep it from being blown off. On a mild day in winter is a good time to attend to putting the labels in proper shape as here suggested. In summer when the leaves are out they are not so readily seen.



LABEL STRANGULATION.

(a) A case from life. (b) Shows label wire too tightly drawn. (c) The label wire as it should be looped.

While on the subject of labels the writer desires to call attention to a non-decaying border label which is a great improvement over the old-fashioned stake label. The stake label (to the left in the engraving) is open to two serious objections. The first is that it decays in a few years so as to be liable to become broken off and to be lost, causing confusion in accurate naming; secondly, it is liable to be lifted by frost in the winter and thus in danger of becoming misplaced.



STAKE LABEL

For border with its non-decaying substitute.

Then, too, in the case of the stake label, the name being necessarily written up and down, it is more difficult to read. The improved label referred to, and shown to the center and right in the engraving, overcomes all the objections of the old form. It consists of less than half as much wood; and this is placed horizontally, being supported by a continuous piece of heavy galvanized iron, as shown in the engraving. The manner of bending the wire and attaching it to the wood by means of staples (barbed) is shown to the right. There is practically no decay to such a label. Heaving is entirely prevented by the anchor-feature, formed by a right-angle bend of two inches in the wires at the bottom. This label is a very little more trouble to set than is a simple stake, but once it is in place it stays.

TOBACCO stems laid around on the ground infested by moles is the latest remedy offered to suppress these pests. It is said that they desert the ground so treated.

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NERINES.

In these we have a singularly beautiful genus of greenhouse bulbous plants, the handsome flowers of which are produced in umbels on the top of erect stems about eighteen inches long, which greatly enhance their value for decorative purposes.

They are very free flowering, but many growers have difficulty in flowering them satisfactorily. To be successful with them the principal cultural details are to give due attention to the full development of the bulbs. The nerine will indicate its intentions of starting into growth by pushing up the flower spike when the bulb is totally devoid of foliage. This will occur in September or October, and the leaves will soon follow, so the plants will continue to grow during the winter, when they should have all the light and air possible to the exclusion of frost. They enjoy abundance of water at the root and overhead, with occasion applications of liquid manure, which should be continued right along until the plants show signs of finishing their growth by the leaves turning yellow. Then the water supply may be diminished until they ultimately dry off, when the pots should be laid on their side, where they are not likely to get wet, and let the bulbs have the full benefit of the sun for a few weeks. As the plants have made all their growth during the winter this ripening process is quite essential to insure flowers.

Nerines do not like to have their roots disturbed, nor do they require much room; they grow and flower best when hard potbound. If three bulbs are placed in a five-inch pot, in good maiden loam with the addition of a little sand, they are good for five or six years, and even longer, as the offsets can be rubbed off and potted and the parent bulbs go on increasing in size. Each year as the flower spike appears pick about one inch of the surface soil off with a sharp pointed stick, give the ball a good soak in water and top dress with a little fresh material.—J. Robertson, in *Florists' Review*.

THE AMERICAN NAVY, CUBA AND HAWAII.

A portfolio, in ten parts, sixteen views in each part, of the finest halftone pictures of the American Navy, Cuba and Hawaii has just been published and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway has made arrangements for a special edition for the benefit of its patrons, and will furnish the full set, one hundred and sixty pictures, for one dollar. In view of the present excitement regarding Cuba, these pictures are very timely. Send amount with full address to Geo. H. Heafford, General Passenger Agent C. M. & St. P. Ry., Chicago, Ill.

FRUITS raw or cooked may be eaten at dinner, says the *American Journal of Health*, provided no vegetables (unless it be potatoes) are taken. But if raw, they should be eaten first, particularly if there are warm foods to follow.

THE wood pulp interests are mainly centered in our spruce forests.

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ACHIMENES.

Achimenes are beautiful bulbous plants whose flowers are in various shades of red, blue, white and lilac. The odd shaped blossoms against the background of brownish green foliage make the plant a novelty, and indeed the achimenes is but little known among florists and amateurs.

We often hear people exclaim, "Oh, yes! I do love plants, but I have no time to cultivate them." There is no reason why every flower-lover, in city or country, should not have a pot of achimenes, for to grow them most successfully they must be kept in a north window, and, if possible, the window should be kept open day and night. The plants delight in a cool, shady situation. Give plenty of water while in bloom and you will be well repaid, for the plants bloom freely throughout the summer. Dry off the bulbs in the fall and repot them the following spring.

Miss V. H. C.

++

HEALTH AND PERSONAL BEAUTY.

There can be no beauty without health; to be sure, there is a kind of spiritual beauty in a face, some times, that does not seem of "earth, earthy," but a young blooming healthy girl is like a fine rose, her coloring is perfect, the blending of white and rose, and the the swift, beautiful color comes and goes, showing life and vigor. I do not think there is anything more conducive to health than for a young girl to have her flower bed, to plant seeds and to work in the fresh, sweet smelling earth. No matter if you do get a little sun-burned, you can soon get rid of that by washing in a solution of borax water, and as powdered borax softens hard water, and makes the skin velvety and soft, it will be a benefit to you to use it. If a girl is pale and delicate, as I was at fifteen, there is nothing that will bring out and perfect the face and form like working in flowers with a trowel, I think it educates a girl to love the beautiful, makes her investigate the botanical names and nature of plants, and it will be a benefit to her all her life to know what will be pretty to run on a trellis, or to border a path, or to leave out as a hardy plant—all this knowledge gives pleasure and enables you to help others as well as yourself. All I know in regard to flowers, their nature, the time of year to plant seeds and when they bloom, etc., was gleaned from the little flower bed and seed given to me when a child to improve my health with outdoor exercise, and also to inculcate in me a love for nature's lovely blooms and blossoms. How I did love that little bed of verbenas, all colors, and planted by my own hands. I watched them day by day to see them grow, and what a pleasure it was to pluck the first blossom to give to a dear friend. The pleasure that accrues from a flower bed is far reaching. You watch the plants grow from day to day, and then you pluck the flowers and see the faces of other persons brighten when you give them your garden treasures. A sick friend's room is kept fragrant with sweet odors, and the good work goes on and on. Health is secured and happiness comes with good health, and often times beauty of face and soul is heightened by being in love with nature's bloom and blossom. S. H. H.

++

HOW TO SUCCEED.

I will write a few of the fundamental rules hoping the recital may benefit others.* First, get a good floral journal, or better still, several floral journals. Then study them, note particularly the location of those who give advice and experience, comparing it with your own. Second, get your seeds and plants from a reliable florist, then they will be fresh, bright, and full of vitality, and your box of plants will be all fresh and sweet and "smelly," breathing of the fragrant greenhouse air. They will not be wilted if sent by a florist who knows his business, if no delay has occurred, even if they traverse from Atlantic to Pacific.

The precious box once ordered, get your pots ready. This is important, for the shorter the time the flowers are exposed to the air, on opening, the better. See that drainage is perfect; I have found

* Those who have read my contribution "Under Difficulties," in the July number, page 143, and understand the difficulties to contend with in this region, will better appreciate the measure of success I have found and the importance of the directions now given.

plenty of lumps of charcoal the very best. For soil I mix rotted sods with old, finely pulverized manure, and a good amount of sand. If a sheep corral is accessible, so much the better. Sheep manure pulverized and mixed with twice or three times its bulk of soil, is the best. Rotted straw dry and powdered, and fine chip dirt also improve the mixture, or leaf mould from the woods. If roses are coming, mix in a handful of clay and a spoonful of soot from the under side of stove griddles where wood is burned.

When the plants come don't soak them in tepid water an hour or two. It is sure death to any plants which have traveled six or eight days. I know whereof I affirm, for I speak from sad experience. Dip one at a time in tepid water, shaking it to disentangle the roots, then set it carefully in the pot prepared for it. Straighten the roots nicely, cover firmly, water thoroughly and set in a large tightly covered box, away from both air and light. Keep the plants in this box a week or ten days, opening it a little while every day to give air. If the box is large enough, so it can be done without scalding any plant, set a tea-kettle of boiling water in the box and cover the box tightly, each day, until the water cools. This is also an excellent way to steam roses, heliotrope, grevillea, or any plant whose leaves love moisture, whenever the dry air of the living room seems to injure them. When the box can be left open all day without causing the plants to wilt, move them to the windows, gradually accustoming them to the sunshine. Thus treated I never lose a plant that is alive when it comes.

Once ready to grow, the rules are patience and attention. Do not expect too much the first few months, but do not neglect for one day. No rule for watering can be given. I never water plants after the first thorough watering when potting, until ready for their places in the windows. Then, in winter, I water such as need it, with warm, almost hot, water in the morning. In summer I water with tepid water in the evening. The reasons are obvious.

For blooming in difficult places bulbs cannot be surpassed. For foliage in the house I find fancy-leaved geranium, Asparagus plumosus, Grevillea robusta and Sansevieria Zealanica not only beautiful but easily managed.

Last November I received a tiny rose, Champion of the World. Throughout the dark months it clothed itself with luxuriant foliage, and now (March 3d) is budded, though only eight inches tall. A very small heliotrope, received at the same time, has had rich soil, a sunny south window and plenty of warm water nearly every day, and is showing clusters of purple buds. Nicotiana affinis, given rich soil, plenty of root room and pinched a while, will give a constant supply of its exquisitely fragrant white blooms for six months at a time.

EVAN.

Eastern Oregon.

* *

KEEP THE FLOWER POTS CLEAN.

Before the plants are potted every pot should be well washed inside and out. It destroys invisible insect deposits, opens the pores of the pottery, and externally adds to the genteel appearance of plant collections. Experience in this matter gives me "mystical lore" and I am prepared to say that if a tub of strong suds made of Gold Dust Washing Powder is prepared and each pot submitted to a bath administered by a good scrubbing, the health of the plants will be preserved from contamination with impurities that accrue from clogged or fermenting surfaces, or the microbes that so often mysteriously sap the life of potted plants. Gold Dust Washing Powder is just strong enough to cleanse thoroughly and is also a mild but very sure insecticide; death to insects and destructive to germs, but fine for freshening up and cleansing the plant receptacles.

A package of Gold Dust Washing Powder is within reach on a shelf near one of the finest collections of potted palms I have ever seen. The palms are in large earthen pots and the florist pointed with pride to the new and perfectly clean exterior of them all, and assured me he never had been without the ever-ready Gold Dust in the eight years he had used those same pots.

MRS. G. T. DRENNAN.

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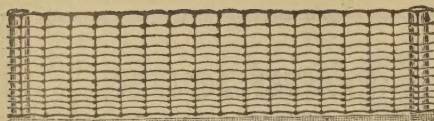


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NEW YORK STATE ENTOMOLOGIST.

Professor M. V. Slingerland, entomologist of the Cornell University Experiment Station, has been suggested as a successor to the position of State Entomologist of the State of New York, an office now vacant since the death of Dr. Lintner. It is to be hoped that this suggestion may be acted upon, thus giving the State an able and efficient official where his services are of the highest utility.

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